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ABSTRACT

The cooperative program described in this paper is aimed at black high school students and combines the efforts of the Urban League of Greater Miami, Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC), and participating universities nationwide. The program goals are the following: (1) to raise the aspirations of students in targeted high schools; (2) to motivate students to enroll in appropriate courses in preparation for college and to motivate them to a high level of academic achievement; (3) to facilitate the progress of participants through an Associate in Arts degree at Miami-Dade Community College to successful transfer to a university for completion of a bachelor's degree; and (4) to finance the college education of successful participants. A key element in the program is the establishment of scholarship "bank accounts" for each participant as a reward for academic performance. Dollars will be placed in the student's "bank account" based on final grade performance in academic courses in high school and at Miami-Dade Community College. The money will be used for full financing of four years of college education. Model funding for a scholarship "bank account," sample letters from M-DCC to prospective participating universities, and a sample of the agreement between M-DCC and a participating university are included. (FMW)

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DADE COUNTY BLACK STUDENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

March 1987

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Revised
April 13, 1987

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DADE COUNTY BLACK STUDENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

1. SPONSORS

The Urban League of Greater Miami, Miami-Dade Community College, the Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation, and the Dade County Public Schools.

2. GOALS

a. To raise the aspirations of a significant number of black students who are enrolled in high schools which have been targeted by the Urban League for a model college preparatory program.

b. To motivate a significant number of black high school students to enroll in appropriate courses in preparation for college, that is, courses that develop strong information skills; and to motivate these students to a high level of academic achievement.

c. To facilitate the progress of participating black students from targeted high schools through an Associate in Arts degree at Miami-Dade to successful transfer to a university for completion of a bachelor's degree.

d. To finance the college education of successful participating black students.

3. THE PROGRAM

a. The Urban League of Greater Miami, working with volunteers, sponsors, and appropriate role models will seek the cooperation of two predominantly black high schools as program model institutions.

b. As an element of the Urban League program in the targeted schools, a program will be introduced to place priority on academic performance, and to reward that performance by building a scholarship "bank account" for use at Miami-Dade Community College and at cooperating universities for full financing of four years of college education.

1. Dollars will be placed in a scholarship "bank account" based on final grade performance in academic courses. For each "C", $30.00 will be placed in the bank; for each "B", $60.00; and for each "A", $90.00. Half of the amount will be provided by the student's sponsor and the matching half by Miami-Dade Community College, utilizing funds from the Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation. Miami-Dade Community College and the Foundation have agreed to set aside $114,000 the first year to provide matching funds for the first 75 students.

2. The Urban League will seek corporate or individual sponsors for each student. The sponsoring individual, a representative from the sponsoring corporation, or a volunteer working on behalf of a sponsor will serve as a mentor and contact, and work with each student from the outset of the program. The sponsors will make a commitment to contribute to the student's scholarship bank. The required commitment is $1,520 over a five-year period.

3. High school staff will work with the students in cooperation with M-DCC staff to design appropriate course selection and to help students prepare to pass M-DCC placement examinations and to begin college level work upon admission. The M-DCC computerized Alert system will be used to provide individual feedback to students about their progress each term.

4. A sufficient fund will be developed at M-DCC to pay fees for the two years at Miami-Dade for students who have a "B" average in high school academic courses. Most students would qualify for other financial aid which then could be used to pay for books and living expenses.

c. M-DCC will arrange upper division transfer programs with universities in Dade County, Florida, and throughout the nation.

1. The College will provide special advisement and guidance services to monitor the progress of these students through their program at Miami-Dade.

2. M-DCC will make arrangements with senior universities wishing to participate so that, at the time of admission to Miami-Dade, students will be guaranteed a four-year program if they are successful academically.

3. The participating senior institutions will be required to provide, at a minimum, a match for the

scholarship "bank account" which will continue to be built during the student's stay at Miami-Dade. Funds will be accumulated at the rate of $40.00 for a "C"; $80.00 for a "B"; and $120.00 for an "A", with half paid by the student's sponsor and half by the Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation. Depending upon the number of credits taken, this will produce a scholarship fund total between $1600 and $2000 if the student maintains a "B" average. Since the fund will be matched by the participating university, the student will begin the junior and senior years with a scholarship fund between $3200 and $4000, in addition to federal and institutional financial aid which can be arranged. The participating senior institutions will agree to package full scholarship aid to the student.

4. M-DCC will involve the participating senior institution with the student from the time of enrollment at Miami-Dade in order to facilitate the process through the bachelor's degree.

d. The Urban League will monitor the program from start to finish. This will include working with the students following graduation from college, to encourage the return of some funds as sponsors or partial sponsors in order to sustain the program.

4. MODEL FUNDING

The following would be the scholarship "bank account" for a typical student maintaining a "B" average.

Year		Sponsor	Wolfson Foundation	Cooperating University	Fund Available for Scholarship
1	10th Grade	$ 240	$ 240		
2	11th Grade	$ 240	$ 240		
3	12th Grade	$ 240	$ 240		
4	Freshman Year	$ 400	$ 400		$ 720*/**
5	Sophomore Year	$ 400	$ 400		$ 720
6	Junior Year			$ 800	$1600**
7	Senior Year			$ 800	$1600**
TOTAL		$1520	$1520	$1600	$4640

* M-DCC Fees estimated at $720 per year

** It is expected that students would be eligible for additional federal and/or institutional financial aid to complete a full package

5. PROGRAM BENEFITS

a. The program is structured, and the requirements concrete and understandable.

b. The program incorporates the essential elements for student success:

1. Involvement with a caring role model.
2. Raising aspirations and providing motivation.
3. Providing incentive to enroll in, and succeed in, solid academic courses.
4. Opening options to complete a baccalaureate degree at many universities, while recognizing that most students in the program will need the work at Miami-Dade to prepare for success at the university upper division.

5. The cost per student is within the reach of many potential donors. The program is cost effective.

6. The Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation, through Miami-Dade Community College, has provided the match of $114,000 for the first 75 students. The Foundation is committed to provide further matching funds.

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MIAMI-DADE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Number one in America

Robert H. McCabe
President

May 12, 1987

Dr. Stanwood C. Fish
Director of Admissions
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Stan:

Miami-Dade Community College has developed a program to help minority students who have strong potential, but whose circumstances would not normally forecast a college career. I am writing to invite your participation in that program. As described in the enclosed material, the program begins at the tenth grade level and continues through Miami-Dade to completion of a bachelor's degree at a university or four-year college. Many of these minority students will require the full five years of special attention in the improved high school program and Miami-Dade in order to be ready for successful upper division work. At the time of transfer, they will be fully prepared academically.

The students will bring with them approximately $1600 of scholarship money for use in the junior and senior years. Miami-Dade will undertake to help participating universities establish contact with these students while they are still in high school. We are seeking to identify universities which will agree to accept a specific number of these well-prepared minority students, and to supplement the funds they will have earned at Miami-Dade with federal, state, and institutional aid so that a full scholarship program may be provided for the junior and senior years.

The first of these students would be ready for transfer to the university in 1992. I am requesting that University of New Hampshire agree to participate by accepting and providing scholarship support to one student in this program each year beginning in 1992. Please let me know if you are interested in participating, and the number of students your institution would be willing to accept.

Thank you for your consideration. You may contact Mr. Clinton Cooper (347-2011) if you have any additional questions concerning this program.

Sincerely,

Robert H. McCabe
President

enclosure

Dear :

I am pleased you have accepted our invitation to join in the Black Student Opportunity Program. Your agreement to accept ___ student(s) will help to assure the success of a program which I feel to be vitally important if we are to truly address the needs of minority students. I am confident that by beginning the program in the high schools, with scholarship rewards to be earned on a cumulative basis, we have developed a program which will not only be successful, but also copied by other institutions across the country.

We are proud to count you among our partners in leading the way in expanding the scope of minority scholarship programs. I am enclosing a copy of an agreement between our institutions outlining our commitments which I ask you to sign and send a copy back to me. Although you will not enroll your first student(s) until 1992, it is important for the first group of students, to be identified this fall, to know that commitments have been made. We will send you information on the individual students in the program sometime in the late fall. Subsequent reports will follow so that we can have at least two years in which to identify the student(s) who will be attending _____.

Sincerely,

Robert H. McCabe
President

Enclosure

BLACK STUDENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
AGREEMENT BETWEEN

AND
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

_____ and Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) hereby enter into the following agreement governing the transfer of Associates in Arts graduates in the Black Student Opportunity Program at M-DCC to _____ beginning the fall of 1992 and continuing for a period of five (5) years, after which both institutions will undertake renegotiation of the agreement.

During the period of this agreement Miami-Dade Community College will:

Provide _____ with information on all students in the Black Student Opportunity Program when they enter the 10th grade with follow-up reports at subsequent intervals so that by the time students reach the end of their senior year in high school the student(s), M-DCC and _____ will know who will be attending _____ after successful completion of the AA at M-DCC.

Inform _____ of the progress of the student(s) at the end of each term at M-DCC.

Make available to the student(s) a description of the recommended AA curricula for all _____ majors and work with (the) _____ and the student(s) to ensure the student(s) meet all requirements for transfer to junior status.

Publicize the involvement of _____ in the program.

Assure that the student(s) transferring to _____ have achieved the Associate in Arts degree, including passing whatever testing requirement exists in the state.

For M-DCC AA graduates in the Black Student Opportunity Program admitted to _____ during the period of this agreement, _____ will:

Accept _____ student(s) per year for five years as juniors, with the understanding that some students may need to complete additional prerequisites for the programs in which they enroll.

Accept the 36 required general education credits earned at M-DCC, including those within the interdisciplinary core curriculum, applying them toward the equivalent lower division general education requirements of _____.

Agree to provide as much grant support for the student(s) as possible, at a minimum matching the $1,800 that the students will bring from the program. Every effort will be made to depend as little as possible on loans.

During the period of this agreement, both institutions agree to:

Monitor the academic performance of students enrolling under the agreement, identify problems, and work cooperatively to adjust details of course sequence and content so that students can transfer with no academic disruptions.

Arrange articulation meetings to develop major course equivalencies between _____ and M-DCC.

Notify each other concerning any contemplated curricular changes which would affect the future of this agreement.

_____
, President

Date: _____

_____
Robert H. McCabe, President
Miami-Dade Community College

Date: _____